



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency **Enforcement and Compliance History Online**

Are you interested in knowing about the environmental history of facilities in your neighborhood?

The Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO)

information system provides a single place to find detailed, up-to-date, environmental compliance history of EPA-regulated facilities. This innovative e-Government tool, developed in partnership with the states, integrates current compliance and inspection data under air, water, and hazardous waste programs, as well as demographic data of the surrounding area into a format that is easy to use and understand.

Would you like to keep track of your own facility's compliance record?

Would you like to view the compliance history of a company before investing in it?

Since ECHO's November 2002 launch, hundreds of thousands of citizens, government officials, investors, and staff at regulated facilities and companies have asked more than three million questions about the environmental records of the more than 800,000 facilities in ECHO.

What are ECHO users doing?

- The public and businesses have a single point of access to environmental compliance information
"This is a student's dream come true for research on local issues. Most helpful!"
- Citizens can make better informed decisions about environmental issues impacting their communities
"I was able to easily lookup my neighborhood and city and find the compliance data for the area..."
- Regulated entities can use it to keep track of their record of compliance under federal environmental laws and may have further incentives to be in compliance, as the public has direct access to the company compliance records
"I see this a great tool to review other operations and their problems so we can be pro-active instead of re-active."

- Investors interested in reviewing the compliance history of a company prior to investing now have desk-top access to this information
“The database now publicly available on the Internet through the ECHO system will aid the investing public in making informed decisions. Transparency and disclosure requirements are a good start.”
- State and local governments can use ECHO to help determine priorities
“As a state-level staff that handles facility NPDES permit compliance and enforcement, having all the program status listed together (i.e. CWA, CAA, RCRA) will facilitate intra-department communication on compliance issues.”
- Concerned citizens and employees can provide EPA with tips about non-compliant activities
 More than 200 tips have been submitted and forwarded to EPA’s regional enforcement offices for review and action.

How is data quality ensured?

- EPA and its state and local partners maintain standards and procedures for ensuring data integrity
- Facilities can review their records at any time, and the data are updated monthly
- Error correction requests can be submitted online and are forwarded to state and federal data stewards for resolution

Get me started!

- It’s simple! Go to <http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/>
- ECHO is easy for first-time users! There is even a First-Time Users Guide: http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/first_time_users.html
- Users are able to:
 - ▶ retrieve the compliance records for individual facilities
 - ▶ perform online analyses
 - ▶ download results
- ECHO includes comprehensive help documents and a Data Dictionary
- Call the telephone user support hotline at (617) 520-3000 (staffed by Abt Associates Inc.), or click the “Contact Us” link if you are just getting started or need more in-depth information about the data
- Submit feedback and/or questions online at any time